



Town of Rowe
Board of Selectmen Minutes
Tuesday, February 23, 2021 –4:00 p.m.
VIA TELECONFERENCE

This meeting will be held via video conference, consistent with Gov. Baker's temporary modifications to Open Meeting Law due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Board of Selectmen: Chair Charles Sokol, Selectman Joanne Semanie
Absent: Selectman Ed Silva
Administrative Staff: Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary, Paul McLatchy III Administrative Assistant
Audience: Board of Health Chair Maggie Rice, Ben Werner Director Rowe Camp and Conference Center

Call to Order: Chair Sokol called the meeting to order at P.M., a quorum of the board present via remote participation.

MOTION: Roll call vote to call to order:

Chair Sokol: **yes**
Silva: **absent**
Vice-Chair Semanie: **yes**

Background: This group of individuals (self-titled "Covid Group") has been meeting weekly for the past few months to listen to the state Covid-19 briefings and discuss ongoing matters in town related to the pandemic. As Board of Health Clerk Joanne Semanie was elected last Saturday to the Board of Selectmen, there is now a quorum of the board present during these weekly meetings, and as such, must take place in open session.

Covid Discussion: The following points/topics were addressed during discussion:
Maggie Rice, Board of Health Chair reported the following:

- Testing and Positive Covid-19 Cases were down in Franklin County
- Franklin County has a 10.6% vaccination rate
- There will be more regional clinics as vaccines become available
- More volunteers are needed for the spokes
- Elderly can phone LifePath to help with appointment making 413-829-9285
- It is hoped that there will be more vaccines available in the future

The following message was prepared for the Public Notification System:

"Good Evening Rowe Residents,

Good Evening Rowe Residents,

The following is the weekly message regarding the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic.

Anyone aged 65 or older, as well as other people with certain underlying health conditions, may now receive a vaccination for the Coronavirus. Anyone who is currently eligible to receive a vaccination has several options to make an appointment.

As vaccinations shipments arrive, vaccination locations update their availability for upcoming appointments. That information is disseminated to appointment websites late in the week, and appointments can be booked using those sites on the following days. Specifically:

On Thursdays, much, but not all, state-wide vaccination availability is uploaded to the state vaccination website: vaxfinder.mass.gov

On Friday afternoons, additional local vaccination clinic information is disseminated to the website www.maimmunizations.org

Additionally, eligible individuals may call the Greenfield Senior Center at 413-775-6411, where you will be able to schedule a vaccination. A gentleman by the name of Matt will take your information, and if he is unable to provide you with a specific time for a vaccination right away, he will call you back when a vaccination appointment slot becomes available.

Finally, for those who do not have access to the internet, need assistance with registering, need transportation to a vaccination site, or are unable to leave their home, an organization known as LifePath is facilitating appointments for people who are elderly or disabled. You may reach them at 413-829-9285, and they will help you through the vaccination scheduling process, and may be able to provide additional services such as transportation.

For anyone who has scheduled a vaccination appointment, please remember to book any required second-dose vaccination appointments before leaving the vaccination site. It will be much easier to book an appointment before leaving than to try to book a second dose after the fact.

Although vaccination provides a very high degree of protection from COVID, and people who are vaccinated are almost certain to avoid major illness, there is a small chance that even after being vaccinated you could still catch COVID from someone else, and -- more importantly -- pass on that infection to someone who has not yet been vaccinated.

As such, it's extremely important that everyone -- including people who have been vaccinated -- continue to reduce exposure to others: that means wearing masks that cover both your mouth and nose whenever in public, maintaining distance when around others, minimizing time in indoor public spaces, and whenever possible limiting travel. These measures are meant not just to protect yourself, but to protect those around you.

The Rowe Coronavirus task force will continue to keep you updated on these and other coronavirus topics on an on-going basis, typically with weekly updates or when prudent.

Thank you, and stay healthy"

~Chuck Sokol

Adjournment:

MOTION: Chair Sokol made a motion to adjourn the meeting 4:49 p.m. The motion was seconded by Selectman Semanie.

MOTION: Roll call vote to call to order:

Chair Sokol: **yes**

Silva: **absent**

Vice-Chair Semanie: **yes**

Respectfully Submitted,

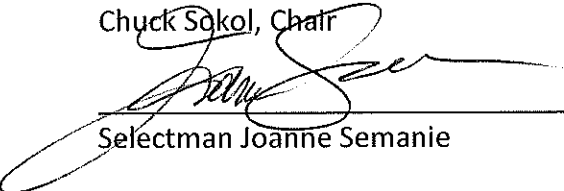
Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary

Approval Date: *MARCH 4, 2021*

Approved:



Chuck Sokol, Chair



Selectman Joanne Semanie

Documents:

- Agenda February 23, 2021